

Wisconsin Medicaid update and BadgerCare

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Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Information for Providers

To:
All Providers

Wisconsin Medicaid will revise claim and prior authorization instructions as a result of HIPAA

The *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Although the *Update* refers to Medicaid recipients, all information applies to BadgerCare recipients also.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare are administered by the Division of Health Care Financing, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/.

Wisconsin Medicaid will revise paper claim and Prior Authorization Request Form (PA/RF) instructions to be consistent with the Administrative Simplification provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). All providers should watch for announcements of these changes in future *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Updates*.

Important changes in instructions to be available soon

In the near future, Wisconsin Medicaid will issue revised instructions for completing paper claims and prior authorization (PA) requests, including samples of properly completed forms, effective dates, and information for ordering new forms. These revised instructions will ensure that Wisconsin Medicaid is consistent with the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Providers should pay special attention to *Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Updates* released over the next several months to keep informed of these important changes.

Purpose of HIPAA

One of the purposes of HIPAA is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system by reducing the cost of health care administration. HIPAA enables this by establishing standards and requirements to facilitate the electronic transmission of certain health information. Providers are encouraged to refer to previously published HIPAA materials on the Wisconsin Medicaid Web site at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/medicaid/.

HIPAA will affect all providers, regardless if they submit paper or electronic claims. Future *Updates* will include instructions for paper submissions.

Information regarding Medicaid HMOs

This *Update* contains Medicaid fee-for-service policy and applies to providers of services to recipients on fee-for-service Medicaid only. For Medicaid HMO or managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Wisconsin Medicaid HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.